

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-36, 41-43, and 46 are pending in this application, with claims 8-15, 17-20, 22-36, and 41-43 withdrawn from examination. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended and claims 5-6 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein) or places the application into better form for Appeal should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims, does not raise the issue of new matter, and does not raise any new issues requiring additional search and/or consideration since the Amendment is directed to subject matter previously considered during prosecution. Furthermore, the amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are in response to issues raised in the Final Rejection. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 46 is objected to as being based on a rejected base claim, but is otherwise allowable. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the very helpful suggestions for advancing allowance of this application.

I. **Claim Objection**

Claim 7 is objected to for an informality. By this Amendment, claim 7 is amended to correct the informality.

II. **Rejection Under §112, First Paragraph**

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution claims 5 and 6 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brennan. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection. Because Brennan does not disclose the subject matter of amended claim 1, Brennan does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

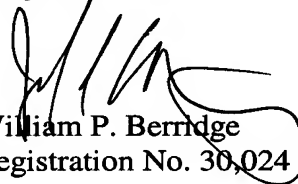
Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chanda. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution claim 7 is amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection. Because Chanda does not disclose the subject matter of amended claim 7, Chanda does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

WPB:JSA/kxs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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